

**From:** [Webster, Susan](#)  
**To:** [Broyles, Ragan](#)  
**Cc:** [Petersen, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Summary of Camp Minden  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:19:27 PM

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Just got off the phone with paige...here is one of my action items for tomorrow! Lol

And Chuck does have the ESB report but I will forward to u and guy. Susan

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**From:** Bertrand, Charlotte  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:01:44 PM  
**To:** Edlund, Carl; Phillips, Pam; Delgado, Paige; Webster, Susan  
**Cc:** Cheatham, Reggie; Maddox, Doug  
**Subject:** Summary of Camp Minden

Carl/Pam/Paige/Susan –

Attached below is a short summary of the situation at Camp Minden. As we mentioned on the call today, we were asked to prepare this information to send to Mathy who may send it to the Administrator's office. Thank you so much for offering to review and comment on what we drafted. Doug and I are out tomorrow, but Reggie will be in if you have any questions for us. Hope you enjoy your holiday weekend,  
Charlotte

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On October 15, 2012, an explosion at Camp Minden, Louisiana (the former Army Ammunition Plant), prompted attention from EPA Region 6, Louisiana State Police (LSP), and national media. The explosion that occurred was on Camp Minden property being leased by a private company, Explo Systems, who was demilitarizing certain weapons under a Department of Defense contract. Investigations conducted at Camp Minden discovered that Explo improperly stored explosive materials intended for recycling creating a high risk situation at the site. The nearby town of Doyline was evacuated for a week in December due to concerns that any ignition could set off a massive chain-reaction blast. During this time, LSP worked to secure the site.

Since October, most of the explosive material that was improperly stored has been moved to bunkers on the base. EPA Region 6, EPA OSWER Headquarters, and the Louisiana National Guard have all requested DoD for assistance with the situation at Camp Minden. DoD denied requests to help manage the materials (e.g, offsite storage requests) but sent a technical team to conduct an assessment of the potential short and long term hazards associated with the materials being processed and stored on Camp Minden.

In site visits in early April and early May, the DoD team identified significantly more explosive material onsite. DoD found hundreds of thousands of pounds of M30 propellant, tritonal (a TNT mixture), potassium nitrate, and nitrocellulose in aging and leaking containers which need to be promptly addressed in addition to the millions of pounds of M6 propellant stored at the site being moved into safe storage. The team also identified

some containers of crystallized ammonium picrate, a shock sensitive high explosive, which poses an immediate explosive risk.

The DoD team expects to finalize their report and recommendations later this week. The LA State Police currently have the lead oversight for the cleanup actions at the site. EPA Region 6 is providing technical support. It is possible that EPA may be asked to take over the removal actions.